ALBERTA CROP REPORT
As of May 3, 3012

Provincial

The 2012 crop year is off to a promising start. Seeding is estimated at 12.3% completed, down slightly from the long term average of 16.4% but ahead of the average for the last 5 years of 8.2%. Fall seeded crops have emerged from the winter in good condition with 75% rated good/excellent. Southern Alberta fall seeded crops are rated 90% good/excellent.

Table #1: Seeding Progress (as of May 3/12)

	% Seeded					
Crop	South	Central	North East	North West	Peace	Alberta
Spr Wheat	39%	3%	< 1%	< 1%	0%	13.8%
Durum Wheat	35%	2%	0%	—	—	30.9%
Oats	14%	< 1%	0%	0%	0%	1.0%
Barley	40%	1%	< 1%	0%	0%	12.8%
Canola	25%	< 1%	< 1%	0%	0%	3.5%
Field Peas	66%	11%	4%	1%	0%	24.9%
All Crops (2012)	**39.6%**	**2.8%**	**0.8%**	**0.3%**	**0.3%**	**12.3%**
All Crops (2011)	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
5 Year Ave	20%	5%	2%	3%	2%	8.2%
Long Term Ave	34%	14%	5%	6%	12%	16.4%

Surface soil moisture is very good in most regions with over 75% of the province rated good/ excellent. The exception is the Peace region with over 60% of the area rating surface moisture as excessive. Approximately 80% of the province is rating sub soil moisture as good/excellent with 4% rated excessive.

Table #2: Surface/Sub Soil Moisture Ratings (as of May 3/12)

	Surface Moisture Ratings (0 – 6 inches)					Sub Soil Moisture Ratings (Below 6 inches)				
Region	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel	Excess	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel	Excess
South	0%	12%	47%	39%	2%	1%	19%	49%	31%	0%
Central	1%	5%	32%	48%	14%	1%	11%	51%	24%	13%
NE	0%	24%	52%	22%	2%	8%	22%	45%	24%	1%
NW	0%	7%	39%	52%	2%	1%	11%	56%	32%	0%
Peace	0%	0%	0%	38%	62%	0%	0%	36%	58%	6%
Average	**0.1%**	**9.3%**	**34.4%**	**40.5%**	**15.7%**	**1.9%**	**12.5%**	**47.9%**	**33.5%**	**4.1%**

Hay and pastures are off to a good start with ratings of 10% poor; 18% fair; 66% good; 6% excellent. Hay and pastures need an extended period of warm weather.

Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

Seeding is estimated at 39.6% complete, compared to 0.2% in 2011 and 20.2% complete over the past 5 years. Much of the seeding occurred in early to mid April. Wetter weather of late has slowed the pace of seeding but significantly improved growing conditions. 86% of the region is rated good/excellent for surface moisture with 80% rated good/excellent for sub soil moisture.

Hay and pastures are rated: 2% poor; 12% fair; 65% good; 21% excellent.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

Cool, wet weather across much of the region has seeding progress estimated at 2.8%, ahead of last year when virtually no seeding had occurred and slightly behind the 5 year average of 5.3%. Most of the seeding to date has occurred in the central and eastern areas of the region with very little in the west. 80% of the region is rated good/excellent for surface moisture with 75% rated similarly for sub soil moisture. Excess moisture is an issue in the north portion of the west area of the region.

35% of hay and pastures in the region are rated as poor/fair, not due to moisture limitations, but to a need for warmer temperatures.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

Seeding is slowly getting underway with 0.8% seeded, slightly behind the 5 year average of 2.4%. Soil moisture conditions are good with 75% of the surface moisture and 70% of the sub soil moisture rated good/excellent.

Pasture/hay ratings are showing the effect of the dry fall and winter conditions with 40% of the region rated poor/fair. Warmer weather is needed to take advantage of the precipitation which has fallen this spring

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

Cool, wet weather has not provided conditions beneficial for an early start to seeding this spring. Less than 1% of the region has been seeded to date compared to the 5 year average of 2.6%. Soil moisture is very good with both surface and sub soil ratings near 90% good/excellent.

Hay and pasture ratings are being affected by the cool conditions which has delayed the start of growth. 27% are rated poor, 13% fair and 60% good.

Region Five: Peace River (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

Conditions this year have been cool and wet. As a result, very little seeding has occurred to date as virtually nothing has been seeded compared to the 5 year average of 2%. Excessive surface soil moisture is an issue across the region with 62% rated excessive. Over 90% of the region is rating sub soil moisture as good/excellent.

Hay/pasture conditions are rated as 100% good.

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